RE. WITHDRAWAL OF NSG COVER TO FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU

SHRI R.K. KUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, normally, when a newly elected Member of this august House rises to make his maiden speech, he should be feeling happy and elated. However, it is with a heavy heart, full of sadness and sorrow, that I rise to make my maiden speech through this Zero Hour submission. This is because the subject-matter of my maiden submission is one of great worry, greater concern and anxiety, and absolute anguish.

Sir, I am referring to the sudden withdrawal of the NSG cover given to the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and General Secretary of our party, the AIADMK, by the Central Government. This sudden withdrawal is exposing her to a serious security threat. Five years ago, after due consideration of the risk perception, the Government of India extended 'Z plus' category security cover to our leader. She was then the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Immediately upon assuming power, she took effective steps to curb the activities of the most lethal terrorist outfit known as the LTTE. The free inflow of terrorists through the coasts of Tamil Nadu, their arms producing units in Tamil Nadu, their training camps, their communication network, their local support base, etc., were completely wiped out by the timely, bold, action of our leader, as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, at grave risk to her own life. Considering the risk perception due to such bold steps to curb the activities of the LTTE, the Government of India provided 'Z plus' security cover to our leader. But today, this security cover has been withdrawn suddenly, without any reason, exposing her to a grave personal risk of elimination. The withdrawal of NSG cover is without any justification and seems to have been made without any application of mind. The reasons and circumstances that necessitated extending this security cover for all the five years still persist. As a matter of fact, the risk perception can be said to have enhanced now in view of her not being presently the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the terrorist outfits wait patiently, to strike at the appropriate time. Take the case of Gen. Vaidya. He was killed years after the 'Operation Blue Star' in Amritsar, at a far-off place like Pune. The former Director-General of Punjab Police, Rebeiro, who tried his best to curb the terrorist activities in Punjab was not left alone even after he had gone abroad as Ambassador. He was pursued there and attacked. For the alleged ill-treatment which he thought was meted out to him at Thimpu when the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi was negotiating with the various terrorist outfits of Sri Lanka, Prabhakaran waited long enough so that the late Rajivji could lose one election and while campaigning for another election, he was asassinated with a human bomb. Sir, the human bomb culture hitherto was only a figment of the fertile imagination of fiction writers. But planning meticulously from the jungles, Prabhakaran could carry out the assassination in Tamil Nadu, with the help of a human bomb. Subsequently, many Sri Lankan leaders, including their own Prime Minister, were assassinated by means of human bomb.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Kumar, you have to conclude.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Sir, this is my maiden speech. I am raising a very serious matter. I will take just two-three minutes more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Two-three minutes more?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister should listen to what he is saying. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Sir, the former Chief minister of Tamil Nadu is exposed to a grave threat to her life from this most dangerous terrorist outfit, not only

because of her stern action in Tamil Nadu against this outfit, but also, twice, she had to vigorously pursue with the Government of India and get the proclamation declaring the LTTE as a terrorist organisation extended.

We do not know the grounds on which the security cover has been withdrawn by the Government of India. In spite of our excellent performance in various fields during the last five years, we have not been successful in the recently held Assembly elections. It is true; and there is nothing wrong with it. If the reason for the withdrawal of NSG cover to our leader
is because she is no longer the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, it is all the more deplorable. It is not just a person happens to hold one position today and ceases to hold that position tomorrow. In our democracy, for that matter, in any democratic system, a person who holds a high office today may be voted out tomorrow and returned back to power the day after.
No less a person than the hon. Prime Minister himself, both inside and outside Parliament, with all his humility, repeats this theory. As recently as yesterday, while explaining the difficulties and compulsions forcing the Government of India to increase the price of the petroleum products, he repeated the same.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The Prime Minister should listern to this. This is a very serious issue...*(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr Singla, Mr. Singla...

AN HON. MEMBER...don't interfere with the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SATIM): Don't disturb him. Allow him to speak.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: If in respect of a fiscal and monetary measure the yardstick for support or decision making should be that those who are in the Treasury Benches today may occupy the Opposition benches and the Opposition may occupy the Treasury Benches tomorrow and the problem facing the country has to be solved by all jointly with mutual cooperation without making any political capital out of the same, here is the question of grave threat to the life of a popular leader and former Chief Minister of a State and the question is why the same logic should not be extended to this serious matter and continue the NSG cover to our leader. Speaking in the Lok Sabha on 4th June 1991 on the withdrawal of SPG cover to late Rajivji, the former Home Minister of India said—and I quote:

> "He was the Congress President and it was all the more necessary that adequate security should have been provided to him by the Government."

Sir, our leader, though not the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu today, is still the only leader of a large political party and, by the above logic, NSG cover for her should not have been discontinued. Moreover, the threat perception is from the same source which was successful in carrying out a ghastly assassination during an election campaign. The threat, I would like to humbly submit, is doubled inasmuch as the supporters of the LTTE are ruling the State of Tamil Nadu now. Sir, I would like to quote from the proceedings of this august House of 19th July 1991 (page 138 of the proceedings of 19th July 1991):

> "When the DMK Government was in power at that time (i.e., during 1989-91) several PAs of Ministers gave bail to LTTE militants and this has raised doubts in the minds of the people. Militants were let out on bail. This has been admitted. The Q branch made recruitment to police. These were the people who arranged meetings of the militants with the then Chief Minister, Shri Karunanidhi. This has not been denied by the Gov-

ernment. If Karunanidhi is innocent, when somebody in the Assembly talked about Prabhakaran, why did he defend him? When Prabhakaran was compared to the sandalwood smuggler Veerappan, Shri Karunanidhi took serious offence to it."

Sir, these are not the words of any of my party colleagues. These are the words of a senior Member of this august House. He is today an ally of the ruling party.

Sir, during the 1989-91 DMK regime, Padmanabha and 13 others were brutally shot down in a busy residential locality in the city of Madras and the killers were allowed to flee to the jungles of Jaffna with impunity... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Sir, there is a writ petition filed in the Delhi High Court. ..*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The hon. Prime Minister is here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Is it a Special Mention or what?

..*(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): It is a Zero Hour submission.

..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Sir, I would like to conclude by pointing out that the very purpose of creation of the NSG as per the preamble of the National Security Guard Act of 1986 was to provide for the constitution and regulation of an armed force of the Union for combating terrorist activities. Its very purpose will be defeated if the security is withdrawn.

Sir, no doubt, as a political party we have paid the biggest price that a democratic system can impose on a political party. We do not want to pay any higher price. Even if the slightest harm comes to our leader by withdrawing the NSG cover, the blame will be squarely on the Central Government. So, Sir, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister, through you, to withdraw this order of withdrawal and continue to provide NSG cover to our leader.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Prime Minister is here. ..*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): There is a very important issue in which you will also be interested. ..*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, please give me one minute. ..*(Interruptions)*.

I request the hon. Prime Minister to react to this. ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Please take your seats. I have not identified anybody. Please take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Let the Home Minister come and make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The former Chief Minister has already written to the Prime Minister. She has written to the President and to the Home Minister also. The Prime Minister is here. I would request him to react to this matter and to say what he is intending to do. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mrs. Jayalalitha has to be protected, yes. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Please.

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): सदर साहब, हमारे मुल्क में एक हादसा हो चुका है (..व्यवधान..) रेणुका साहिबा आपकी इजाजत हो तो मैं कुछ अर्ज़ करूं। सदर साहब, मैं अर्ज़ कर रहा था कि हमारे मुल्क में शदीद हादसा हो चुका है। उस हादसे के सिलसिले में जैन कमीशन बैठा हुआ है और वह इस पहलू पर ही खासतौर से गौर कर रहा है। यह जो हमारे यहां फिट्स एण्ड स्टार्स के फैसले हो रहे हैं यह क्यों हो रहे हैं? कोई यूनीफार्म फैसले नहीं हो रहे हैं। मेहरबानी

से जब कि हम इतने नाजुक मोड़ से गुजर रहे हैं इस वक्त अचानक यह फैसला करना, जब कि जैन कमीशन की तरफ से कोई फैसला नहीं आया है निहायत ही गलत है। जय ललिता को सिंगल आउट करने का मतलब क्या है? यह साजिश बहत ही अफसोसनाक है। वह फेसिलिटी उनको जारी रहनी चाहिए। जैन कमीशन की रिपोर्ट आ जाने के पहले आप किसी स्पेसिफिक नतीजे पर न पहुंचे। आप मेहरबानी से फिट्स एण्ड स्टार्ट में छोटे-बड़े फैसले करने की जल्दी न कीजिए। जय ललिता जी का एसपीजी कवर रेस्टोर रहना चाहिए।

†[نیتا وردھی دل شری سلندر بخت: صدر صاحب - ہمارے ملک میں ایک حادثہ ہو چکا ہے ... مداخلت ... رینو کا صاحبہ - آپ کی اجازت ہو تو میں کچھ عرض کروں - صدر صاحب - میں عرض کر رہا تھا کہ ہمارے ملک میں شدید حادثہ ہو چکا ہے - اس حادثہ کے سلسلے میں جین کمیشن بیٹھا ہوا ہے - اور وہ اس پہلو پر بھی خاص طور پر غور کر رہا ہے - یہ ہمارے یہاں فٹس اینڈ اسٹورکس کے فیصلے ہو رہے ہیں یہ کیوں ہو رہے ہیں کوئی یونیفارم فیصلے نہیں ہو رہے ہیں مہربانی سے جبکہ ہم اتنے نازک موڑ سے گزر رہے ہیں اس وقت اچانک یہ فیصلہ کرنا - جبکہ جین کمیشن کی طرف سے کوئی فیصلہ نہیں آیا ہے نہایت ہی غلط ہے جے للتا کو سنگل آؤٹ کرنے کا مطلب کیا ہے - یہ سازش بہت ہی افسوسناک ہے - وہ فیسیلیٹی انکو جاری رہنی چاہیئے - جیف کمیشن کی رپورٹ آجانے کے پہلے آپ کسی اسپیسیفک نتیجے پر نہ پہنچے - آپ مہربانی سے فٹس اینڈ اسٹارٹ میں چھوٹے بڑے فیصلے کرنے کی جلدی نہ کیجئے -

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

جے للتا جی کا ایس - پی - جی - کور ریسٹور رہنا چاہیئے -]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mrs. Margaret Alva. ...*(Interruptions)*

I have identified Mrs. Margaret Alva. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Agarwal, I have identified Mrs. Margaret Alva.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with what has been raised. We are not going by political parties or by political questions here. We are talking about the threat perception which exists in Tamil Nadu. Dr. Jayalalitha has been one of those who have been in the forefront of the battle against the LTTE all these years, and, I think, this Government has erred in withdrawing unilaterally the security which was given to her. We have seen what happened in the case of late Rajiv Gandhi. We request the Prime Minister who is here to have this decision reviewed.

I also want to ask of him whether he has withdrawn the security to Mr. Subramaniam Swamy who was enjoying the security which he did not deserve because he is not to be equated with Dr. Jayalalitha. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Prime Minister, do you want to say something?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Yes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Yes, Mr. Prime Minister.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, kindly allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): No, Mr. Narayanasamy. Please. No, no, Mr. Narayanasamy. Please sit down.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I come from that region. I seek your indulgence.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): We are not debating on any

regional problem. The point has been made. Let the Prime Minister say something. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am coming from that region. We know that there is security threat in that region. We know that. I will not take more than half a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): No. Then there are so many Members from Tamil Nadu. I have not given them a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, kindly bear with me. Since she is not Chief Minister of the State now.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD SALIM): He will not go on record.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: *

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Sir, I would like to clarify the position. This decision was taken by the Home Ministry. It seems they made a periodical review.

So far as continuing the security arrangement for several political leaders is concerned, now the matter has been raised here. It is a question of providing security not only to the former Chief Minister, Dr. Jayalalitha, in Tamil Nadu but to several other former Chief Ministers, former Ministers and MPs. It seems that they have taken the decision to withdraw the security arrangement that was provided previously. That is what I have read in the newspapers today. Let me be plain on this issue. This matter has been raised now in this House by Shri Kumar and other Members. I will re-examine it, and I will see that necessary protection is given.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Withdrawal of security led to Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. Don't forget it. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): It is all right. Now we have a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

Mrs. Margaret Alva, you will find it a very important issue.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: One more point you have raised is about Dr. Subramanian Swamy. I do not know whether it is being continued or not. We have not given it. That was given during your regime.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Security to Smt. Jayalalita was also given in our regime. So, if you are withdrawing it, why are you not withdrawing it in the case of the other? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You are a senior Member. You had been a Minister also.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: So what?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): When the Prime Minister is speaking, you should not interrupt. *(Interruptions)* Now the matter is over. Please sit down. Now, Shrimati Kamla Sinha. There is an important issue now. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Muthu Mani, please sit down. *(Interruptions)* The matter is over. Please sit down. Now we have the important issue of 33 per cent reservation to women. Shrimati Kamla Sinha.

RE. SEEKING REDEMPTION OF THE UNITED FRONTS PLEDGE CONTAINED IN THE COMMON MINIMUM PROGRAMME TO GIVE 33 PER CENT REPRESENTATION TO WOMEN IN UNION AND STATE LEGISLATURES.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important issue. The women of India have been agitating and demanding reservation of 33 per cent seats in State legislatures and in both Houses of Parliament for the last few decades; in fact, since independence.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): There should also be reservation of women in the Government, not only in the House.